

OLL 84-1899
10 May 1984



MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing on Soviet ASAT Capabilities for
Senate Foreign Relations Committee

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1. On 10 May 1984, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee was briefed on Soviet ASAT capabilities and the Intelligence Community's ability to monitor an ASAT arms control agreement. The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) briefers were Larry Gershwin, National Intelligence Officer for Strategic Programs; [redacted] Chief, Arms Control Intelligence Staff, Deputy Directorate for Intelligence (DDI); and [redacted] Chief, Satellite Technical Analysis Branch, Space Systems Division, Office of Scientific and Weapons Research, DDI. Present from the Committee were:

Larry Pressler, (R., SD), Presiding
Claiborne Pell (D., RI)
Edward Zorinsky (D., NE)
Frank H. Murkowski (R., AK).

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Sen Biden appeared briefly at the end of the briefing. Also attending were Kent G. Stansbury, Department of Defense (DoD), and Chris Lay, John-Egan MacAterr, and Vigtor Teplitz from Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA). Twelve Committee staffers attended, including Alex Glicksman who organized the secret-level briefing. A transcript was taken. [redacted]

2. The briefing continues a series of briefings conducted and/or supported by DoD, State, ACDA and CIA on ASAT/Space Arms Control Policy following submission of the Administration's Report to Congress on 31 March 1984. The briefing today, however, was limited to an intelligence assessment and did not address the Administration's ASAT policy proposal. [redacted]

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3. Dr. Gershwin provided a 50-minute exposition of the Soviet space program and its anti-satellite applications, adhering to the Intelligence Community's findings in

He described current Soviet space capabilities, the development of various systems, and likely advances over the next decade. Included in the presentation were references to the various uses of Soviet satellites, the development of an ASAT orbited interceptor, ground-based test lasers and the technological capability to conduct electronic warfare against space systems. Dr. Gershwin indicated that Soviet space expenditures will likely continue at high levels leading to further military applications.

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